

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 IO-03 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8685

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 8044

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AR, PA

SUBJECT: REASONS FOR GELBARD'S OUSTER

REF: ASUNCION 4450

1. GELBARD'S ECONOMIC TEAM DID INCLUDE A NUMBER OF LEFTISTS, MOST NOTABLY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. THIS WAS NOT SUDDENLY DISCOVERED, HOWEVER; IT HAD BEEN WELL KNOWN FOR SOME TIME AND, HENCE, WHILE DOUBTLESS A FACTOR IN GELBARD'S OUSTER IT WAS CLEARLY NOT THE KEY ONE--THOUGH IT IS A CONVENIENT EXPLANATION FOR ARGENTINES TO USE WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS SUCH AS UGARTE CENTURION.

2. GELBARD'S CONFLICT WITH LOPEX REGA WAS ALSO A FACTOR. THIS TENDS TO REINFORCE RATHER THAN EXCLUDE CONSIDERATION IN PARA ONE, HOWEVER, SINCE LOPEZ REGA IS IDENTIFIED WITH EXTREME RIGHT.

3. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, GELBARD'S OUSTER RESULTED FROM A COMBINATION OF FACTORS, NOT LEAST OF WHICH WAS THAT HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES WERE SIMPLY NOT WORKING AS EXPECTED. GOA HAD TO SHIFT GROUND AND NEEDED NEW MINISTER LESS IDENTIFIED WITH ORIGINAL POLICY LINES.

4. GOA DOES GIVE SOME EVIDENCE OF DISAPPOINTMENT WITH EARLIER COMMERCIAL DEALINGS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND OF MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH WITH RESPECT TO ANY FUTURE DEALS. GOA, HOWEVER, WILL

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DEFINITELY VOTE TO RAISE CUBAN SACTIONS AT QUITO MEETING, AND

WHILE THERE MAY BE LESS REAL WARMTH IN ARGENTINE-CUBAN RELATIONS,
WE DOUBT THAT GOA'S OFFICIAL POSTURE WILL CHANGE APPRECIABLY.

5. WE DO NOT BELIEVE ABOVE ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN ANY
DETAIL WITH PARAGUAYANS. AND, OF COURSE, AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
SHOULD NOT BE INDICATED AS SOURCE. AMBASSADOR LANDAU MAY WISH
SIMPLY TO INDICATE TO FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WHILE THERE WERE A
NUMBER OF LEFTISTS AROUND GELBARD, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS
THE ISSUE WHICH TOPPLED HIM. FURTHER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOA
WILL VOTE TO LIFT CUBAN SANTIONS, BUT WE ASSUME GOP WILL WISH
TO TAKE ITS OWN SOUNDINGS WITH ARGENTINES.

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